In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Suspension system comprising

a flat spring member, and

a suspension ~~frame~~ supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member,

characterized in that

a suspension frame serves as the suspension that supports the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

said flat spring member serves as a membrane for carrying an optical element,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to locally apply a preload force to the spring member so as to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member,

wherein $m+k \geq 3$, ~~and~~

wherein the k preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame, and

wherein said flat spring member comprises three or more in plane oriented leg-shaped flexible members.

2. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the spring member is a cross-like spring member having n=3 or n=4 legs and wherein the suspension frame comprises k=1 or k=2 preload elements.

3. (Original) The suspension system of claim 2, wherein the cross-like spring member is a membrane with cut outs.

4. (Previously Presented) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the suspension frame and/or the spring member comprises plastic, silicon or metal.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) Positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member, and

a suspension ~~frame~~ supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member,

characterized in that

a suspension frame serves as the suspension that supports the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

said flat spring member serves as a membrane for carrying an optical element,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to locally apply a preload force to the spring member so as to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member,

wherein $m+k \geq 3$, ~~and~~

wherein the k preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame, and

wherein said flat spring member comprises three or more in plane oriented leg-shaped flexible members.

7. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly of claim 6 further comprising at least one actuator being mechanically coupled to the spring member or being mechanically coupled to an optical element suspended by the spring member, the actuator allowing the position of the spring member and/or the optical element to be adjusted.

8. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly of claim 7 further comprising a detection unit, preferably comprising a feedback sensor, and drive electronics.

9. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly according to claim 6, being part of a communication system.

10. (Withdrawn) Optical system having a suspension system, the suspension system
comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an
active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member.

11. (Withdrawn) Optical system having an positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the

suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an
active area of the spring member, and

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member.

12. (Withdrawn) The optical system of claim 10, serving as fast-steering mirror system mirror system.

13. (Withdrawn) The optical system of claim 11, serving as fast-steering mirror system.

14. (Withdrawn) Satellite having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising
a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$, and

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

15. (Withdrawn) Satellite having a positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, and

whereby $m+k \geq 3$, whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

16. (Withdrawn) Satellite having an optical system, the optical system having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an

active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member,

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

17. (Withdrawn) Satellite having an optical system, the optical system having a positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having

a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member, at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an
active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the
spring member,

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of
the satellite.